

IN THE CLAIMS

Substitute the following amended claims for the pending claims of the same number:

Cancel Claims 1 through 27 and add new Claim 28 as follows:

FL
28x. A method for manufacturing a vehicle frame assembly comprising the steps of:

(a) providing a first side rail that extends the entire length of the vehicle frame assembly;

Rule 1.26
(b) hydroforming the first side rail so as to have an integrally formed mounting structure;

(c) providing a second side rail;

(d) providing a cross member;

(e) securing the cross member to the side rails; and

(f) connecting a component of the vehicle directly to the integrally formed mounting structure of the first side rail without the use of brackets or other mounts.